

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, comprising:

5 informing means for informing, to an external apparatus, information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium; and

acquisition means for acquiring data outputted from
10 said external apparatus according to the information by said informing means.

2. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information for acquiring the data is
15 information for identifying the data.

3. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the information for identifying the data is represented by URI.
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4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

reception means for receiving a print instruction including information indicating the position of storage of
25 data and said layout information;

wherein said informing means informs information included in said print instruction.

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5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said acquisition means acquires the data through a
network.

5 6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said layout information includes information
indicating the sheet size or the layout direction.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
10 wherein said layout information is information designating
a page and said acquisition means acquires data
corresponding to the designated page.

8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
15 wherein said structured description language is XML or HTML.

9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said apparatus is a printing apparatus.

20 10. An image forming system composed of an image
forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a
recording medium based on data described in a structured
description language and an external apparatus for
executing a conversion process of the data described with
25 said structured description language, the system
comprising:

informing means for informing, to an external apparatus,

12. An image forming apparatus according to claim 11,
wherein said changing means changes said layout information
according to the function or status of said image forming
apparatus.

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13. An image forming apparatus according to claim 11,
wherein said layout information is information indicating
the sheet size.

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14. An image forming apparatus capable of outputting an
image on a recording medium based on data described with a
structured description language, comprising:

reception means for receiving a print instruction;

determination means for determining layout information

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required for assigning an image based on the data to the
recording medium, in case the received print instruction
does not include said layout information;

informing means for informing, to an external apparatus,
layout information determined by said determination means;

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and

acquisition means for acquiring data outputted from
said external apparatus in response to the information by
said informing means.

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15. An image forming apparatus according to claim 14,
wherein said determination means determines said layout
information according to the function or status of said

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image forming apparatus.

16. An image forming apparatus according to claim 14,
wherein said layout information is information indicating
5 the sheet size.

17. An image forming method for outputting an image on a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, comprising steps of:

10 informing, to an external apparatus, information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium; and

acquiring data outputted from said external apparatus
15 according to the information by said informing step.

18. An image forming method according to claim 17,
wherein the information for acquiring the data is
information for identifying the data.

19. An image forming method according to claim 18,
wherein the information for identifying the data is
represented by URI.

25 20. An image forming method according to claim 17,
further comprising steps of:
 receiving a print instruction including information

indicating the position of storage of data and said layout information; and

informing information included in said print instruction.

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21. An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the data are acquired through a network.

22. An image forming method according to claim 17,
10 wherein said layout information includes information indicating the sheet size or the layout direction.

23. An image forming method according to claim 17,
15 wherein said layout information is information designating a page and there are acquired data corresponding to the designated page.

24. An image forming method according to claim 17,
20 wherein said structured description language is XML or HTML.

25. An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein said method is realized in a printing apparatus.

26. An image forming method for outputting an image on
25 a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, comprising steps of:
receiving a print instruction including layout

computer to execute:

a reception step of receiving a print instruction including layout information required for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium;

5 a changing step of changing the layout information received by said reception step;

an informing step of informing, to an external apparatus, the layout information changed by said changing step; and

10 an acquisition step of acquiring data outputted from said external apparatus in response to the information by said informing step.

34. A memory medium storing a program to be executed by
15 an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, the program causes a computer to execute:

a reception step of receiving a print instruction;

20 a determination step of determining layout information required for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium, in case the received print instruction does not include said layout information;

an informing step of informing, to an external
25 apparatus, the layout information determined by said determination step; and

an acquisition step of acquiring data outputted from

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an acquisition step of acquiring data outputted from said external apparatus in response to the information by said informing step.

- 5 37. A program to be executed by an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, the program comprising:
- 10 a reception step of receiving a print instruction;
- 10 a determination step of determining layout information required for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium, in case the received print instruction does not include said layout information;
- 15 an informing step of informing, to an external apparatus, the layout information determined by said determination step; and
- 15 an acquisition step of acquiring data outputted from said external apparatus in response to the information by said informing step.

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